



## Maryland Municipal League

*The Association of Maryland's Cities and Towns*

# TESTIMONY

March 5, 2020

**Committee:** Appropriations

**Bill:** HB 1098 – Use of Public Funds – Playground and Athletic Field Surfaces – Authorizations, Preferences, and Prohibitions

**Position:** Oppose

**Reason for Position:**

The Maryland Municipal League opposes House Bill 1098 which establishes a preference for the use of state-of-the-art natural surface materials in any projects to construct playgrounds or athletic fields using public funds, and prohibiting the use of State funds to finance any portion of a project to build a new, or replace an existing, playground or athletic field with a synthetic surface

Many municipalities utilize Program Open Space monies for upgrading and constructing athletic fields and sports complexes. These amenities are vital to the health and livability of a community, and without access to POS monies, most of these projects would not be economically feasible. The use of artificial turf has been shown to provide longer extended durability and lower maintenance costs for jurisdictions with athletic fields. If this legislation were to be enacted, municipalities would be forced to return to grass fields in order to access State funding, which in the long run, would cost the State more in replacing these fields at a faster rate and result in higher annual maintenance costs for the jurisdictions attempting to extend the life of natural turf fields.

For these reasons, the Maryland Municipal League opposes HB 1098 and respectfully requests an unfavorable committee report.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:**

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